

Drip. Drip. Drip. That sound adds up to more than 10,000 gallons of water wasted in the average home every year due to running toilets, dripping faucets, and other easy-to-fix leaks.

The City of Torrington Meter Department has constructed a *leaking toilet* visual aid. The display is capable of demonstrating water leak scenarios with data logging provided by an electronic water meter. A ½ gallon per minute leak, based on current City of Torrington utility rates, would cost the homeowner an additional \$54.70 on their monthly utility bill!

Check your home for leaks. You can detect silent toilet leaks, a common water-wasting culprit, by adding food coloring to the toilet tank and waiting 10 minutes before flushing. If color appears in the bowl, your toilet has a leak.

Tighten fixture connections with a wrench or apply pipe tape to ensure that fixture connections are sealed tight. If you can't stop those drops yourself, contact a plumbing professional. For additional savings, twist WaterSense labeled aerators onto bathroom faucets to use 30 percent less water without noticing a difference in flow.

Replace the fixture. If you just can't nip that drip, it may be time to replace the fixture. Look for the WaterSense label, which indicates that a fixture uses at least 20 percent less water and was independently certified to perform as well as or better than standard models. Replacing your home's inefficient showerheads with WaterSense labeled models lets you shower with power while shrinking your household's water footprint by 2,300 gallons annually.